

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0017 of the Specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Another aspect of the invention is a coupling for transferring gas into a shaft (preferably a rotor shaft) and a shaft configured to be used with the coupling. The coupling preferably includes a coupling member having a bore with an opening, the bore including an end proximal to the opening and an end distal to the opening. The distal end is preferably smooth and tapered with no threads. The coupling is preferably threaded at the proximal end, most preferably with ~~e~~ coarse coarse threads. The end of the shaft configured to be received in the bore has a mating smooth, tapered portion and mating ~~e~~ coarse coarse threads. When the end of the shaft is received in the bore, the tapered portion of the shaft is received in and aligns with the tapered, distal end of the bore, which assists in centering the shaft. Further, the mating of the smooth, tapered surfaces helps to prevent gas leaks thereby leading to longer component life.

Please replace paragraph 0065 of the Specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0065] Coupling member 1200, shown in Figs. 12 and 13, has a proximal end 1202 and a distal end 1204. An opening 1206 leads to a bore 1208. Bore 1208 contains threads 1210 juxtaposed the proximal end. Threads 1210 are preferably ~~e~~ coarse coarse ACME threads (most preferably 3/8" ACME thread) to allow for easy installation and removal of the rotor shaft. End 1212 of bore 1208 near the distal end 1204 is tapered, contains no threads and is preferably smooth. Apertures 1214 are designed to receive a tool (not shown) for disconnecting the shaft from the coupling.